

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. The specification has been amended on page 5. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, and 12 are also amended. Claims 1-12 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC § 112, 2nd paragraph and if all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims were included. The Applicant has rewritten claim 6 in independent form and amended the claims where appropriate to address the § 112 rejections. Thus, claims 6-10 are now in condition for allowance.

Objections

The specification and claims disclosure are objected to. Amendments have been made where appropriate. It was unnecessary to amend claim 10 since it depends from claim 6, which establishes the antecedent basis for “the rear pillar.” Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Rejections of claim 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite due to the use of the phrase “and/or.” Although the phrase “and/or” is clear and definite, claims 1-3 have been amended to expedite allowance of the application. Claim 12 has also been amended for clarification. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,783,152 (“Tanase”). The rejection should be withdrawn because Tanase does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, Tanase does not disclose, teach or suggest a filling tube having “a first filling tube section and a second filling tube section, the first filling tube section being situated in a first roof section and a second filling tube section being situated in a second roof section” as recited in claim 1, as amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by DE 100 56 298 ("Albrecht"). The rejection should be withdrawn because Albrecht does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, Albrecht does not disclose, teach or suggest a filling tube having "a first filling tube section and a second filling tube section, the first filling tube section being situated in a first roof section and a second filling tube section being situated in a second roof section." Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

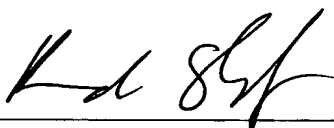
Claims 2-5 and 11-12 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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SHOULD ADDITIONAL FEES BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF THIS PAPER, OF IF A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME IS REQUIRED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME, THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741 FOR ANY SUCH FEES; AND APPLICANT(S) HEREBY PETITION FOR ANY NEEDED EXTENSION OF TIME.